

Nike Missile Base SL-40,
Underground Storage Magazines
And Launcher-Loader Assemblies
Southwestern most end of Launch Area
Vicinity of Hecker
Monroe County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-117-Z HAER
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
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Significance: The underground storage magazines and launcher-loader assemblies are where Nike missiles were stored and kept ready for launching at the Nike Missile Base SL-40. These underground structures contained a room for storing the Nike missiles, an elevator to carry the missiles to the surface for firing. There were four launchers built on top of the underground magazines.

These structures were built in 1958 from standardized drawings approved by the Corps of Engineers, which were designed by the firm of Seelye, Stevenson, Value and Knecht of New York City. Nike buildings were considered modified emergency buildings. Originally, they were to be pre-fabricated structures, but were rather unsightly and did not contribute to troop morale and, therefore, were changed to modified emergency design.

Description: There are three underground magazines (missiles' storage area) of masonry construction. They each contain 5,998 square feet, and have concrete footings, floors, walls, and ceilings. The main room inside measures 62'6" x 68', with further extensions of 4' and 13' at the ends of the hydraulic elevator inside. The elevator measures 10' x 55'. The magazine is accessed by a steep set of stairs, which are accessed through a metal hatch. At the bottom of the stairs is another heavy metal door. Off the missile storage room is a hallway that leads to a small bunk room, and a launching room. These rooms are separated from the missile storage room by concrete walls. An emergency exit leads from the launch room to the outside.

Historian: Christina Carlson, Bregman & Company, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland, June 1994